Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 COME-00 AGR-05 TRSE-00 TAR-01

L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 SAB-01 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 /047 W

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O R 012042Z APR 75 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3443 INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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EO 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, PN

SUBJ: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REFS: (A) STATE 71996; (B) PANAMA 1767

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE NO. DREU-68/1336-2, 1332,1338 DATED MARCH 31, IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY NOTE NO. 2 OF JANUARY 6 WHICH HAD REQUESTED AGREEMENT TO VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT (VRS) LEVEL OF 3.0 MILLION POUNDS. IN THE NOTE THE FOREIGN OFFICE QUOTES THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER WHO STATES THAT THE VRS LEVEL IS EXTREMELY LOW, POINTS OUT THAT PANAMA HISTORICALLY HAS HAD 0.5 PERCENT OF THE U.S. IMPORT MARRKET, AND THAT THE MINIMUM QUOTA THAT PANAMA CAN ACCEPT IS 6.0 MILLION POUNDS. THUS THE REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT TO THE 3.0 MILLION POUND VRS WAS NOT ACCEPTED.

2. THE FOREIGN OFFICE ALSO REFERS TO EMBASSY NOTE NO. 35 OF MARCH 25, WHICH HAD REQUESTED AGREEMENT TO A VRS LEVEL OF 2.5 MILLION POUNDS. THE FOREIGN OFFICE OBSERVES THAT AN ANSWER WAS REQUESTED FOR THE SAME DATE THAT THE EMBASSY'S NOTE ARRIVED, THAT ALL PUBLIC OFFICES WERE CLOSED MARCH 26-30 FOR HOLY WEEK, AND THAT THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTER FOR HIS OPINION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- 3. NO RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S APPROACH TO PRESIDENT LAKAS (REF B) HAS BEEN RECEIVED.
- 4. COMMENT. SINCE THE 3.0 MILLION POUND VRS LEVEL HAS BEEN REJECTED IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE LOWER FIGURE WOULD ALSO BE UNACCEPTABLE. IN ADDITION, THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY SECRETARY BUTZ (REF A) WHICH PRECLUDES ANY IMPOSITION OF QUOTAS MAY GIVE THE GOP THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY URGENCY TO THE MATTER AND THAT THERE IS NO NECESSITY TO AGREE TO THE PROPOSED 2.5 MILLION POUND VRS. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: AGREEMENTS, MEATS, IMPORT QUOTAS, EXPORT CONTROLS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)

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